

**An important message  
from State Representative**

# John Aguilera

## Aguilera asks for second look at dredging process of Indiana Harbor Ship Canal

I have been troubled for a considerable amount of time now about the proposed dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal and the process of moving the dredged material to a confined disposal facility in East Chicago. That facility is located near Indianapolis Boulevard and Columbus Drive. The fact that my concern has been shared by countless people in our area prompted me to author House Resolution 72 in the recent legislative session.

That resolution, which passed the House on a voice vote, urged the formation of an interim legislative study committee to examine the effects of the current plan by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The ultimate decision on whether to appoint such a committee rests with the Indiana Legislative Council, a leadership group of Representatives and Senators charged with handling such issues.

This situation is one that deserves your attention because of the potentially devastating effects it could have on the Northwest Indiana area involved. First, there is no argument on whether the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal needs to be dredged. It contains possibly millions of gallons of oils, sediments and other hazardous materials from years of pollution and use.

The area of disagreement comes in the disposal of those materials at the confined disposal facility (CDF) in East Chicago. Even though this is an abandoned industrial site that needs to be cleaned, it makes no sense to dump thousands of tons of unknown material on top of it in a makeshift landfill. To complicate matters even further is the fact that two schools - East Chicago Central and West Side Junior High School - are located only 800 yards from the site along with dozens of residential houses in the Todd Park area.

I believe we must form an interim legislative study committee to examine this issue in greater detail. The possible harmful consequences demand a second look at the current proposal. The hundreds of students at East Chicago Central and West Side Junior High School deserve better than this process has provided thus far. They deserve to attend school without the worry of harmful contaminants and toxins in a nearby landfill.

I urge you to use the information contained elsewhere in this newsletter to contact the appropriate people to express your opinions on this issue.

*John Aguilera*



Representative  
Aguilera

### Informational Meeting

May 2

5 - 7 p.m.

East Chicago Library  
Baring and Chicago  
Avenue

All Interested Citizens  
Invited

### Informational Live TV Program

April 18

8 p.m.

AT & T Channel 16

**\*\*Join us to discuss the  
various impacts of the  
confined disposal facility**

# Indiana Harbor Ship Canal

## Legislative Council now will decide if second look at process is needed

As I mentioned on the front of this card, the Indiana Legislative Council will decide if an interim study committee should be appointed to examine in greater detail the dredging of the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal.

That council is made up of various leaders within the House and the Senate. I urge you to write them at the addresses below to express your support for the formation of this committee. This is a serious issue for our area, and we need to convey those feelings to other representatives around the state.

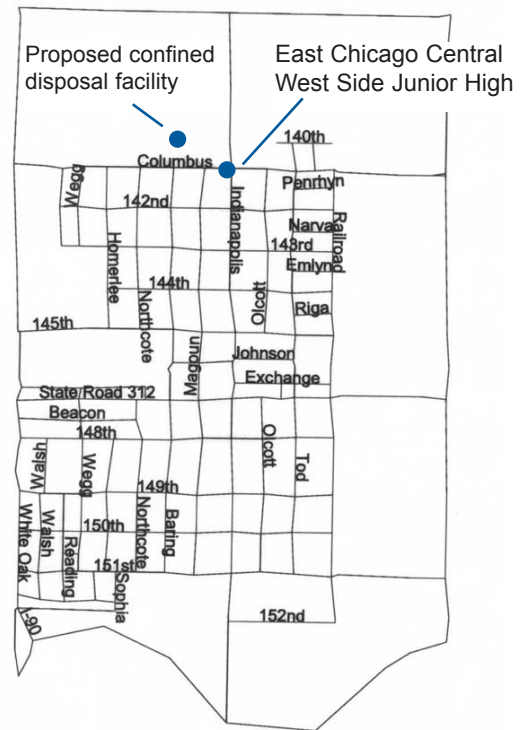
**Indiana Senate**  
**Office of the President Pro Tem**  
200 W. Washington St.  
Room 3A-N  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**Indiana House**  
**Office of the Speaker**  
200 W. Washington St.  
Room 3-2  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

## IDEM issues permits for dredging process

While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has ultimate authority for the dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management is responsible for issuing the various permits needed to complete the project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers already has applied for an air permit with a decision expected in about 30 days. That same group will need to apply for several other permits over the next few years before the project can begin. I encourage you to write IDEM and express your opinions on this issue at the address below.

**Lori Kaplan, Commissioner**  
**Indiana Department of Environmental Management**  
100 N. Senate  
Room N1301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Visit my web site at  
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### Rep. John Aguilera



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